



ST JOHN'S LETTER
FROM THE
ISLE OF PATMOS





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COPY OF A MANUSCRIPT,

SUPPOSED TO BE WRITTEN BY

SAINT JOHN,

FOUND

IN THE ISLAND OF PATMOS, BY AN AGED CHRISTIAN,
BANISHED FROM HIS NATIVE COUNTRY.

Translated from the Greek.

" Ye distant lands, the story hear !
Believe it, every nation !
Seek the same Jesus !!! Who shall fear,
If we have found salvation ?"



355315
26.9.38.

CHELTENHAM :

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1837.

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TO
THE RIGHT HONOURABLE
LORD AND LADY BARHAM,

THESE
SACRED EXTRACTS OF "GRACE AND TRUTH,"

Are Dedicated

BY
THEIR AFFECTIONATE SISTER,

LETITIA PENELOPE NOEL.

INTRODUCTION.

THE Reader must not expect to find any new scheme of doctrines in the following pages, but “*old Evangelical truths*”—directing the *eye* to that light which is from above, and the *heart* to that “peace which passeth all understanding.” “If religion is any thing, it is every thing.”

But two grand distinctions evidently appear to exist, which divide mankind—*they who walk humbly with God*, and they who adopt something like religion, *but refuse to give Him their heart.*

A few years will practically convince us, that any other choice than the *former*, is delusion, folly, and misery; yet, “all think all mortal but themselves;” hence we suffer the vanities of the world, and the opinions of those who are influenced by them, to lead us on blindfold and unmindful of those transcendent blessings which the promises of Scripture hold out to us. Let us think of our privileges as Christians. Are we not offered an inheritance, incorruptible, where we shall dwell with Christ, and behold his glory, and be made a partaker of his perfect holiness? What then is our great business on earth? To cultivate that holiness, that spirituality of mind,

that love of God, of His Word, of His people. How evidently is the cultivation of those graces and dispositions, the earnest and pledge of a better state; and the neglect of them, an awful proof of unfitness for it. We need not volumes of cases of conscience to tell us what we may do, and what refrain from. The road is plain before us. "The wayfaring man need not err in it." This disposition corresponds and co-operates with all that is amiable, all that is benevolent, active, and cheerful.

What a field for energy does a near insight into this world of trouble, ignorance, and poverty, lay open before us! Are we not called upon to *run*

the *Christian race*? It may be short, it may be tedious—plain, or rugged—pleasant, or painful. The prize is before us! The crown, *the celestial crown*, is in view—“even an eternal weight of glory!”

One hope, it whispers, gilds departing day,
Which burns the brighter, as life ebbs away.

MOXHULL PARK,

June 22, 1837.

THE COLLECT.

ALMIGHTY God, by whose Providence thy servant John Baptist was wonderfully born, and sent to prepare the way of thy Son our Saviour by preaching of repentance; make us so to follow his doctrine and holy life, that we may truly repent, according to his preaching, and after his example constantly speak the truth, boldly rebuke vice, and patiently suffer for the truth's sake, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE
ANCHORITE'S ANNOTATION
ON THE
BACK OF THE SCROLL OR MANUSCRIPT.

SON of man, whoever thou art, into whose hands this little though inestimable gem shall fall,—know that after having been three days on the desolate island of Patmos, I was wandering under a row of rocks, and by accident directed into a cave cut at the bottom of one of them, which seems to have been heretofore the habitation of human creatures. I looked diligently

around it, and sat me down on a seat hewn from the living stone, full of gloomy ideas, and sorrowfully reflecting on the vicissitudes of all human affairs. Casting my eyes upward, I perceived on the side of the rock a kind of shelf, cut likewise from the stone; and raising myself to look thereon, behold! there lay with a written scroll of the divine and ever sacred Scriptures, this manuscript, whereon now I write! Looking on each, I fell down and adored and magnified the God of all wisdom, in whose hands we are, and by whose providence we are held and supported all the days of our life! hoping he will by some means (however impro-

bable it may at present seem) deliver this work from the night of obscurity, and make it subservient to the good of his creatures. Thus I recommend it to his favour whose mercy is over all, and whose hands I trust will speedily receive my immortal soul !

Being of beings, God of all mercy, Fountain of glory, of wisdom, of love ! Thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and praise, be unto Thee, eternal and incomprehensible ! from the voice of every nation under thy heavens for ever and ever ; Amen ! I bless thee evermore for thy wonderful loving-kindness to me the least of thy servants ! O strengthen my faith in every trial, give me comfort and full assur-

ance in the promises, that my eye and heart being fixed upon thee may never lose sight of that golden crown, the purchase of the sufferings for all the sons of men. To thee, All-gracious, I recommend this scroll: thou that canst do all things, if it seemeth good in thy sight, render it subservient to the eternal welfare of all thy chosen people ! Nothing is improbable with thee, the meanest instruments are in thy hands all powerful. Thou that bringest to nought the wisdom of the wise ; O bring down all the high looks of the proud ; let thy light and thy truth dispel throughout the whole world, the darkness of error, and grant to all the nations of the earth a full

and complete knowledge of thee, their
only God, and their only Redeemer.
Amen !!

THE
CHRISTIAN ECONOMY.

CHAPTER I.

MAN.

1. SON of Eternity ! thou art of much greater worth than the groveling insect beneath thy feet : assert thy superior privilege ; be wise, and wonder.

2. Raise thine eyes aloft, and contemplate yon heavens, the lofty dwellings of Jehovah : behold that gorgeous sun, walking in brightness

through the skies ; and consider thyself as a spark of his light, a ray of unextinguishable glory, a child of immortality.

3. Let joy swell thy bosom, let conscious and becoming pride sparkle in thine eye, triumph in thy lofty descent ; pant after the blessings of thy father's kingdom ; sigh for eternity !

4. Son of mortality and death ! son of sin and corruption ! be humbled, know and feel thy depravity : so shall shame and confusion hide thy face, and lay thee prostrate in that dust whence thou wert taken, and whither thou shalt surely return.

5. If soaring on the wings of an eagle, with the bright eye of contemplation thou canst steadily behold the dazzling lustre of thy lofty descent :

6. Lower than the lowest deep must thou sink, when turning thine eyes inward, and beholding the long train of evils, which eclipse that splendour, and obscure the whole Deity in thee.

7. Born to dwell in light, thou art in utter darkness ; created to reign in life, death triumphant holds absolute dominion over thee.

8. Thy heart is evil, thy every intention prone to iniquity ; inclination, clad in false smiles, allures thee to sin ; behold thy will consenteth, and thou hast offended.

9. Tremble, O earth ! ye heavens, be clothed with thick darkness ! and O, ye stars, withdraw your shining ! A Son of your God, an heir of immortality, a soul breathed from the eternal Divinity, hath fallen, hath sold

and forfeited his birthright ; and who shall recover him ?

10. O that my life could ransom thine, that the death of man could preserve thee from destruction !

11. But what can man ? his whole is not sufficient for himself ; how shall he add to the light balance of another ?

12. All I have is thine ; all I have is from thy rich abundance, great, glorious, and unexhausted Fountain of power, and wisdom, and mercy, and goodness.

13. When unerring obedience shines before my footsteps ; when the servant hath performed his Lord's every command, what reward awaits him ? this was his duty.

14. If failing in one tittle, can future diligence and full compliance at

all propitiate the past offence, at all reconcile or justify the offender ?

15. Full compliance and unwearied diligence, unerring obedience, before was but duty ; after transgression, remaineth it not the same ?

16. Be wise, now, O ye children of reason ; ye sons of imperfection, listen and be wise.

17. For one trespass (behold and tremble !) man maketh not atonement : who amongst men committeth but one trespass ?

18. Perfection shone in our first sire, before he listened, ate, and was undone ; full as the beaming glory in yon bright eye of the heavens, pure as the virgin splendour in the queen of night, the whole image of the High and Holy One was resplendent in him.

19. Through envy of the devil came death ; the woman was deceived, the man partook her crime.

20. He fell, he died to his immortal living ; the light of Jehovah vanished from his breast.

21. He fell, and became the slave of death, the heir of corruption : sin and sorrow at once entered into the world.

22. We are the sons of fallen Adam : how then must we not be fallen ? how then must we not be slaves, frail and corruptible ?

23. Thy bosom, my friend, my brother, proclaims it ; the truth is deeply engraven on thy perfidious and treacherous heart.

24. What then is thy hope ? where doth it dwell, that I may search it out ? where is the happy pilot that shall

steer thee aright to the harbour of eternal life ?

25. Thou wast born to eternity ; thy soul anxiously panteth after it ; thou hast not a thought but witnesseth this pleasing hope.

26. For what son loveth not his father's house ? what mortal loveth not the place of his nativity ?

27. Thy trespasses are daily ; and yet one trespass is sufficient to darken all thy expectations of glory.

28. Miserable man ! weep and lament ; death and hell lay fast hold of thee ; already thou art condemned : how shalt thou be delivered from these destroyers, and from this condemnation ?

29. Blessed are they that mourn ! Be comforted, burst forth into singing,

son of consolation ! behold I point out
to thee the never-failing pole-star ;
spread thy sails therefore, and make
the harbour of rest.

CHAPTER II.

REDEMPTION.

1. BE humbled, ye high hills ; bow your lofty tops, ye towering cedars ; hide your heads, ye dwellings of the proud ; peace, ye winds ; be still, ye waves ; silence, ye roaring tempests and rocking whirlwinds !

2. Doth not awful silence well become you, while we speak of the wonderful agony of our God ?

3. Silent and abashed ye were when he suffered ; now attend, while a sinner hears the glad tidings, while the voice of great joy breaks into the heart and house of mourning.

4. Behold that cross, lift up thine eyes and wonder ; son of man, behold and adore.

5. Was ever goodness like the goodness of thy God ? Was ever mercy like his mercy ? Was ever sorrow like his sorrow ? Listen and be silent ; abominate thyself, and cleave to thy Redeemer.

6. Lo, yonder he is stretched !—lo, yonder he bleeds !—lo, yonder he hangs on the accursed tree ! The Son of God ! the meek, the blessed Jesus ! a horrid spectacle ! between earth and heaven !

7. Even the holy angels hide their heads and weep !

8. What then shall man ? for whom the Son of the Almighty is thus raised aloft on the tree of infamy ! thus

stretched out ! thus bleeding ! thus expiring in tortures inconceivable, and far above the reach of human thought !

9. His stony heart should melt ; his melting heart should weep great drops of blood.

10. Behold, no diadem of gold adorns his Saviour's head, no costly jewels sparkle round his brows : his crown is only a sharp crown of thorns, his jewels crimson rubies of his own most precious blood !

11. Oh, canst thou then contemplate and be cold ? canst thou survey such sufferings, and not pity ? Art thou a man ? art thou not a sinner ? canst thou reflect ? Oh canst thou remember all, all, is for thee, and shall be ungrateful !

12. See ! through the crashing

sinews of thy benevolent Redeemer's tender hands, the hardy executioner hath driven the piercing, sharp pointed nails !

13. The blood springs forth at each barbarous blow ; and the triumphant sufferer, amid such agony, complaineth not. Child of affliction, wilt thou then ever dare to complain ?

14. Blessing and health fell from those hands ; they dropped comfort as the honeycomb : why, O man, art thou an enemy to thyself ?

15. Why hast thou thus prevented the hours of thy own felicity ? why are those hands transfixed and confined ? why nailed to yon ignominious tree, the feet which unwearied went about doing good.

16. See how the sovereign healer

of mankind—see how the love of God and man hangs on those four great wounds ! His whole body's weight horribly supported by the acute agony of those afflicting lacerations !

17. How can I, sinful dust and ashes, how can I, O my Lord, dare to contemplate thy wounds and sorrows, without the lowest prostration of soul and body ! How can I behold thee thus suffering, and my heart not burst at the sight, and rivers of tears not gush from my eyes ?

18. O I will love thee, I will adore thee above all things ! Yes, thy love shall be the constant meditation of my soul.

19. Hear, my soul ! for it is the last voice of thy expiring Redeemer. Hark ! for all nature is silent ! and make a

solemn pause. Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani !

20. Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani—what words can utter that distress ; or who can express thy agonies ?

21. My God ! Oh wast thou forsaken of thy Father ? why, ah, why ? unsearchable depth of anguish !

22. “ Is it nothing to you, all ye that pass by ? behold, and see if ever sorrow was like unto my sorrow, wherewith the Lord hath afflicted me in the day of his fierce anger.”

23. Thus long since spoke the prophetic voice. Here was the full completion ; here sin and death were triumphant ; and here were poured forth the last struggles of mine, and every condemned sinner's soul !

24. My God, it is finished ! it is

finished ! Oh, my Saviour, why that last and piercing groan ?

25. I see thy head falling upon thy sacred bosom. I see and tremble to behold the wondrous mystic stream flowing from thy precious side !

26. I hear thy expiring groan ! universal nature heareth it, and standeth aghast ; the affrighted sun veils in thick darkness his extinguished splendour ; the earth shaketh exceedingly ; the mountains tremble with fear and astonishment ; the rocks are rent ; the graves are opened ; the dead arise ; and the day is turned into night, for the light of the world ceaseth.

27. Sinner ! it was thy God who thus suffered in thy nature, that thou mightest partake of his, and not die the death eternal.

28. Sinner ! his name is Jesus.

29. For thee he took that name, that he might save thee from thy sins ; that he might redeem thee from the wrath of the Father ; and become thy propitiation and ransom.

30. Adore and wonder ; be humbled and fear : so shall thy bosom feel the divine ray, and thy heart burn with new comforts.

31. Sinner ! his name from all eternity is Jehovah : for thee he submitted to be called Saviour.

32. O rejoice that Jehovah is thy strength and support : sing with the voice of sweetest melody, “ Jehovah is my Jesus and Redeemer.”

33. Meditate hereon, and be meek ; look on that cross, and learn, if thou

canst fathom its depth, whence such love to thee.

34. Let the name Jesus obtain a place and dwell in thy heart : thy fears will then vanish as the early dew before the sun ; thou shalt find peace.

CHAPTER III.

FAITH.

1. OH blessed words of comfort ! Oh glad tidings of great and unbounded joy ! But how shall I secure these precious promises ? how shall I secure this Almighty Redeemer to my soul ?

2. Faith, Christian, is the hand by which thou must apprehend and hold fast these gifts and graces—for gifts they are ; yea, free and wholly unmerited.

3. Look to the Divine Word of thy Master ; read, and thy heart shall receive consolation ; read, and apply to thy Master and thy God.

4. “ He that believeth on me, and is baptized, shall be saved,” were thy words, O God of truth, when triumphant over death and the grave—when leading captivity captive, and gloriously ascending to the right hand of the Father.

5. “ He that believeth on thee,” shall be saved. I believe, O Lord : help thou mine unbelief. Thou, from whom alone this faith proceeds, O increase it in my heart ! O strengthen my trust and confidence in thee !

6. Faith alone can give substance, faith alone can give reality, to the glorious blessings which from thee we hope to receive.

7. Faith alone affords an evidence, faith alone can bear undoubted testimony and witness to my soul, of

those things which I see not and yet believe.

8. Lord, I believe : O that my heart was melted, O that my soul was wholly turned into absolute dependence upon thee.

9. Lord, I believe. I believe that thou art the Christ ; the promised and expected Messiah, the Anointed of the Father, full of grace and truth.

10. I believe that thou art the Son of God, God as well as man, and the only mediator between God and man : I believe thy eternal Divinity ; I acknowledge and confess thy real humanity.

11. I believe, that, with the Father and the Holy Ghost, thou reignest in power and glory for ever and ever,

three persons, in all respects equal, and yet but one God !

12. I believe that thou art the merciful High Priest to offer and intercede, the sacrifice to bleed and atone, and the altar to sanctify and hallow the gift.

13. I believe there is no salvation in any other name or power. I desire to be saved by nought but thy all prevailing and all sufficient merits.

14. I believe, Lord : increase my faith, increase my love ; stretch out thine hand to me, while walking over this stormy sea. I believe thy life, death, and resurrection ; I believe, so must we die to sin, as to rise to righteousness, if we would rise to life and glory.

15. I own, I feel, I know, that by

grace only we are saved—thy free grace, thy most unmerited favour.

16. I confess myself light upon the balance : I am assured nothing but thy weight of merit can give me a weight of glory.

17. I believe, and have been baptized. O sprinkle my heart with thy blood ; grant me to be indeed regenerate and born again, to be made thy child ! O grant me, Father, to be born of thee !

18. By grace only do I wish, by grace only do I hope for salvation.

19. Nothing, nothing do I see in myself, that can in the least deserve thy love ;

20. But all things do I see that can cause thy hate and raise thy indignation against me.

21. Wherefore, O Lord ! with thy penitent servant Job, I seek not to justify myself in thy sight, but abhor myself in dust and ashes.

22. And thus humbled and abased, I wait for thy favour ; thus despising myself, I cleave unto thee, who, while we were yet sinners, didst shed thy blood for us, and thus open the gate of everlasting life.

CHAPTER IV.

WORKS.

1. FAITH, Christian, is the rock whereon thou must build : found there thy hope, and it shall rise to eternity.

2. Faith is the root from whence the fruit of good works must arise.

3. Believe rightly, confess truly, acknowledge sincerely the Lord thy Saviour : and what thinkest thou wilt follow ?

4. A perfect and ready obedience to all his commands, a studious and ever anxious desire to tread in his steps, to wash away all thy filth in the blood of the redemption, and to become pure as

the pure and immaculate Lamb who redeemed thee.

5. Justified though thou mayest and must be without any works, yet thy justification can never be availing, unless sanctification ensue, and bless thee with the assurance of thy adoption and sonship.

6. Can the wind blow, and the tops of the towering pines be unmoved ?

7. Can the sun send forth his bright beams of glory, and no heat proceed therefrom ?

8. Can thy heart feel ardent love, and not know desire.

9. How much rather cannot faith exist without works, or a man be justified who is not made holy ?

10. Certain as the pine-trees move when the wind bloweth ; certain as the

heat and warmth proceed from the sun when it shineth ; certain as the heart burning with love, panteth also with thirsty desire ;

11. So certain, from the true belief, and from a firm and right reliance on thy Saviour, O man, will spring forth an earnest endeavour to become like him in all things : yea, thy delight will be in his commandments.

12. Thou wilt rejoice to call him Father ; thou wilt rejoice to show thyself an obedient son : ever dissatisfied with the best of thy doings ; ever pressing forwards, and anxious still to serve and love him more.

13. Daily wilt thou pant after the water springs of life : hourly wilt thou wish to be transformed into the perfect image of thy God. Rejoice

and be glad ; thy desire shall not be disappointed, thou shalt be so transformed. Be meek and hear, be wise and attend.

CHAPTER V.

THE FIRST ILLUMINATIONS OF DIVINE GRACE.

1. WHAT was that I heard thee say? speak again and declare it: fear not, little child; fear not, thou who art just born to a new and better life.

2. Methinks I hear thee say, “Already I feel new joy in the name Jesus—already I perceive that I have some interest in that name.

3. “Already something unexperienced before, shows me the wretchedness of my fallen sinful state, and my thorough want of such a Redeemer.

4. “Already I feel, that without

him, nothing can avail me. Oh, why is that heart so stony? why am I slack to believe? why is not my soul wholly athirst? why do I not pant? why do I not more earnestly long for thee, my Lord and my God?

5. “Come, Lord Jesus, come and deliver me—come, ever blessed Son of the Father—come, and be thou my ransom and glory. When shall thy mercies refresh my soul? Oh, when shall my sins be washed away in thy blood?”

6. Were not those, awakened sinner, were not those the earnest breathings of thy soul?

7. And wouldst thou know what it is to be born again, what it is to be renewed and enlightened by the Spirit of the Most High?

8. O dwell not on vain words ! consult once more with thine own heart ; enter into the secret closet of it, commune well with it ; be sincere, and thou shalt know, that these thy new apprehensions of things are the first illuminations of Divine grace.

9. Already the Comforter beginneth to make himself known unto thee : he beginneth to dispel thy former darkness, and to bring thee to the knowledge of that marvellous light which is the life of every creature.

10. Go on, and still seek his aid ; request his sanctifying power, that, thus illuminated, thou mayest go on from perfection to perfection, and from strength to strength, until the love of God is shed abroad in thy heart, and until thou hast attained that peace which passeth all understanding.

11. Stand firm therefore in this thy calling, lay fast hold of thy love, and let him not go ; trust not to these first dawnings of grace ; but ride on, finish the conquest, subdue, by the might and grace of thy all-prevailing conqueror, the world, the flesh, and the devil ; so shalt thou perform an acceptable service unto him—so shall thy good resolutions daily break forth into action.

12. But trust not to thyself ; lean not on the broken reed of thine own strength : rely on thy God, and diligently seek him wherever he may be found—so shall the means prove effectual ; so shall the desire of thy lovesick soul speedily be accomplished, and fully gratified.

CHAPTER VI.

PRAYER.

1. As the young eagle, feebly fluttering with her weak pinions, would fain mount on the winds, and gaze upon the bright beams of the sun ;

2. So thou, son of man, but weak and poorly feathered for such a flight, anxiously desirest to reach that heaven whence thou art fallen ; wouldst soar a lofty height in holiness, while yet thy efforts are feeble, chained as thou art, riveted and confined to the world and its many impediments.

3. Oh, how shalt thou win to thee that heavenly Paraclete, whose power

can exalt thee to heaven, whose influence can soon deliver thee from all the dross of thy earthly corruption ?

4. Go on in the way thou hast begun ; labour to attain the Divine gift ; pray, search the word, and communicate.

5. What is thy prayer, but the earnest and sincere desire of the soul turned to God ?

6. Thou knowest well thy human wants, and well canst thou ask and speak for them : thou must know thy spiritual necessities, before thy desire can be turned to them, before that desire can open itself in prayer.

7. Seest thou thy need ! seest thou thy wants, hast thou a true and hearty desire to attain health from God ? and

knowest thou indeed that he is well able to succour and assist ?

8. Lift up thy heart : behold the gates of heaven are open to thee ; the ears of the Almighty are ever attentive to the voice of thy supplication.

9. Early in the morning, at noon-day, at even, at midnight, pour forth thy soul to thy love : pray without ceasing : let thy heart's desire ever be turned to God ; for where thy treasure is, there will thy heart be, and thou canst not fail to request it of him who is all powerful to give or to refuse.

10. Remember well what a Majesty thou art about to address, and see the humiliation of thy soul and body be exemplary and becoming.

11. The best humiliation is deep

self-abasement, and filial dependence on the love of our Redeemer.

12. And wherefore should we doubt? wherefore should we waver? See, at the right hand of the Father, our great Intercessor, pleading his blood and merits for us!

13. Hark! O sinner, he intercedeth even for thee: he knoweth all our wants; he knoweth all our weaknesses. He prayeth for us; O let us mingle our petitions with his!

14. Can we fear when such an all-prevailing friend taketh the cause which we have in hand.

15. No; we will approach with the full assurance of faith, and mingle our prayers with the incense arising from his golden censer.

16. He knoweth, he pitieth, and

pleadeth for our infirmities ; yea, he giveth us ability to offer up one word for ourselves.

17. More grateful than the sweet perfumes arising from the incense, let thy prayers, O my brother, forthwith ascend to the throne of thy Father.

18. Ask, with humble yet firm reliance on his love ; ask, nothing wavering ; ask, and thou shalt have.

19. Ask, and cease not : humble penitent ! knock earnestly, and the door of grace shall be opened unto thee.

20. Oh be not slack—be not cool and indifferent—increase thy fervour : grow warm, grow solicitous, grow importunate.

21. Beg, intreat, implore ; weep and sigh : be not refused, be not com-

forted, let not thy Beloved depart, till he turn in and make his abode with thee.

22. Dwell on his own eternal Word ; dwell on his mighty and never failing promises ; dwell on his mighty and unspeakable acts of loving-kindness.

23. He himself hath spoken, he himself hath promised, he himself hath done it ; his word cannot be reversed, his truth cannot fail ; his promises stand sure and immutable ; yea, to thy comfort, sealed and confirmed by the word of an oath.

24. “ Ask, and ye shall have : ask the Father in my name, and he will give it you : I pray the Father for you.”

25. Blessed words of joy and con-

solation ! Elevated by them to the firmest and fullest confidence on his infinite love, let us, O my brother ! let us join on bended knees, and hearts deeply conscious of our own unworthiness—let us with one soul and voice join in the intercessions of our Master, the united voice of all his saints and servants, and say,

26. “ Hallelujah ! salvation, and glory, and honour, and power be unto the Lord our God : blessing, and honour, and glory, be unto him that sitteth on the Throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever ! Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof ; for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood, out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation ; and hast made us unto

our God kings and priests, and we shall reign on the earth. Amen, come quickly—Even so, come Lord Jesus. Hallelujah.”

CHAPTER VII.

READING THE SCRIPTURES.

1. THUS seeking, thou shalt surely find.

2. But beholdest thou this sacred volume ? son of man, seest thou this divine book ?

3. This is the word of everlasting life ; this is the spring of all thy joy ; this is the fountain from whence all thy comforts flow ; this is the bread of life ; this the fortress of thy faith, the sword of the Spirit, thy buckler and defence.

4. O, meditate well herein ; search, read, hear, mark, learn ; so shalt thou find it heavenly manna to thy soul.

5. This is the word of God—canst thou enough reverence, canst thou enough esteem and delight in it?

6. Every line droppeth peace, as the honey-comb; every page aboundeth with gladness and good tidings, as the ocean is filled with waters.

7. Read, but with a single eye, read and thou shalt understand; be not wise in thine own conceit,—read with an earnest desire to gain profit and knowledge herein; so read, and thou shalt understand.

8. Read with firm faith, as knowing it the infallible Word of the Eternal; with deep humility, as knowing thy own worthlessness and inability to teach thyself; with anxious longing for the spiritual teaching, that hea-

venly unction from the Holy One which alone teacheth us all things.

9. O look not on this book with a common or curious eye, but deliver up thyself to be taught of God herein : apply it wholly to thyself ; bring it home to thine own heart, evermore crying--Lord, is it I ?

10. So shall the day dawn, and the day-star arise in thine heart : so shall the light dispel thy darkness, and thou, spiritually instructed, be enabled to discern the spiritual things of God.

11. As the diamond alone can cut its fellow, so can the Spirit that dictated alone unfold the secrets of his Word.

12. In every page and portion, behold thy Redeemer : he giveth light to every part, as the sun enlighteneth

the world—that other divine book, written also by the hand of Jehovah.

13. Read with the Spirit—look for thy Redeemer in every patriarch, action, rite, and ceremony—seek him, and in all things thou shalt surely find him, who is all things, and who filleth and reigneth in all !

14. O Jehovah ! how shall I sufficiently bless thee for this wonderful display of thy love, this clear knowledge of it, revealed to all thy faithful servants from the beginning of days.

15. O that I might never depart from the light of thy countenance ; but, meditating evermore on this thy will, grow in grace, and understand the way of thy commandments.

16. I wandered, I went astray, darkness and sin surrounded me, thick night overwhelmed my soul :

17. Till thy blessed teachers declared to me thy truth,—O, how beautiful are their feet who bring the glad tidings—who preach the Gospel of peace !

18. How I erred from the way, my God, blind and helpless ! till the voice of thy servants awakened my soul, till the word of thy power through them entered into my heart ! I heard and wondered ; I heard and panted after that peaceful but unknown way !

19. When I heard, O my Saviour ! rejoiced I not with exceeding great joy ? held not awful silence her finger on my lips, while the gracious message gladdened my soul ? sat not attention on my eye-lids, while I beheld thy holy messengers calling aloud to the sinners of Israel, dispensing the Word of health and comfort to thy people !

20. I heard, and with thirsty desire hastened to the written Word of thy commandments. I searched if these things were so. How then was my night speedily turned into day ?

21. Was ever joy like unto my joy ! say, my soul, wast not thou happy in the fruition of thy Beloved ?

22. O let me, let me never pass one day without some portion of thy Word to support and feed my soul ; grant me to live by that bread of life !

23. Give me the knowledge of thy truth ; give me faith, humility, and love ; strike dead all fond imaginations ; blight and wither, mildew and utterly destroy in me, all vain conceit and self-willed delusion.

24. O continue, my God, thy loving-kindness to me, that I may never fail

to hear, to read, and diligently to consider thy book of life.

25. The words of thy truth are a light to my feet ; a fountain of living waters to allay the heat of my desires, to cleanse the filthiness of my heart and life, to cool the immoderate thirst of my soul after worldly vanities, and to make me fruitful in all good works, like a tree planted and nourished by the living brooks.

26. O when shall I be transplanted from this unkind climate ! O when shall I be removed to that heavenly Jerusalem, where, fast by the river of joy, I may flourish in never-failing verdure through all eternity.

27. O speed the hour—great Alpha and Omega—thou Word, Rock, Tree, and Fountain of life and glory.

CHAPTER VIII.

THE LORD'S SUPPER.

1. CAN I forget my dying Friend and Master—can I forget thy last and dear command? O rather let my right hand forget her cunning!

2. “Do this in remembrance of me.”

3. Unworthy as I am, wilt thou then accept me, and shall I be partaker of so mighty an honour, so inconceivable a blessing?

4. Be not disquieted, be not cast down, O my soul; for thy God hath redeemed thee, and how shall he not with his precious blood freely give thee all things?

5. But how shall I dare to approach thy blessed table? how dare to touch the sacred symbols of thy body and blood?

6. I know thou requirest truth in the inward parts—but how can sinful dust and ashes be clean? how can he be pure that is born of a woman?

7. Cleanse me therefore from my sins, wash me in thy blood, renew me, O Lord, with thy grace—so shall I be undefiled, so shall I be free from the great offence.

8. True, I have been admitted into thy Church, and sealed with the pledge of thy mercy in baptism.

9. But woe is me, I have fearfully omitted to renew my covenant with thee—how then can I expect that thou shouldest be my God, or re-

member aught of thy promises unto me?

10. I do earnestly repent, and am heartily sorry for this and my numberless other misdoings.

11. Here, O Lord, here I renew my vows,—here I dedicate myself unto thee.

12. I utterly renounce all the world, its pride and sin ; I believe thy words of grace and truth—enable me, O Spirit of Holiness ! to continue diligent in the discharge of my duty !

13. My repentance is founded on hatred to sin—I detest and abhor it ; I resolve, by thy grace, to forsake it utterly, and never, never crucify thee afresh by the perpetration of that from which thou diedst to redeem me and all mankind.

14. Thus repenting, thus firmly resolving to lead a new and holy life, see, and with mercy look down on the humbled sinner that would approach thy hallowed table !

15. With sincere faith, and firm reliance on the all-sufficient Sacrifice, which atoneth for all our sins, this one atonement which obtaineth the full remission of them, I draw nigh to plead this one atonement of thyself for me, in the sight of thy loving Father !

16. And it prevaieth—my sins are covered, and my God will behold them no more. O my Father, how my soul delighteth in thy love. O the depth of the riches of the goodness and mercy of my God !

17. I love thee (O elevate my heart still more and more)—I love thee,

most adorable Jesus, above all things, for thou hast redeemed me, even by thine own life ; sinner as I am, thou hast shed thy blood for me ! miserable slave to Satan, who could have delivered me from his snare, and the just vengeance of the Almighty !

18. Behold the Son of God hath done it ! the wondrous God-man hath completed the work ! God is satisfied, and man is pardoned. Shout, O ye heavens, and rejoice, O earth, for the salvation of man is accomplished ! he hath but to ask and to receive.

19. Can I extol thy love enough ? Can I enough express thy praises ? O, how shall my soul declare the sincerity of her love : to my brethren, O Father, for thy sake, shall my bowels yearn with tenderest affection !

20. For thy sake will I love, for thy sake will I hold dear as myself, the whole family and race of men, members of thy body, and sons of thy mercy and love !

21. Thus let me plead thy satisfactory oblation of thy dear self, my Redeemer—thus let me plead, and do thou send down the blessing on thy prostrate servant.

22. As thus repentant, believing, loving, pleading, I eat the bread, emblem of thy body broken, as I drink the wine, emblem of thy precious blood spilt,—O strengthen me with spiritual support, refresh my soul with heavenly comfort, as these thy elements strengthen and refresh my frail and perishing body.

23. O become a principle of new

life to me ; feed, nourish, live and dwell in me : so shall I dwell in thee —so, O Christ, shall I be with thee, when thus, my Beloved, thou art one with me !

24. What have I done to merit such grace at thy hands, that I should share such boundless blessing ? Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but to thy name, be the praise : trusting only on thy manifold and great mercies do we presume to come to thy table !

25. Yet accept our bounden duty of praise and thanksgiving : glory be to thee on high, peace and good-will to all thy creatures !

26. Bless, O Lord, the whole race of mankind ; extend, universally extend, thy goodness and compassion.

27. Guide them to thy truth ; bring them all home, blessed Lord, to thy flock ; bring them all to thee, the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

28. Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts, heaven and earth are full of thy glory !

29. Save us, O Lord ! we beseech thee ; let not thine heritage be brought to confusion, but turn thy people from the error of their paths !

30. Let not one, one of thy flock, wander out of the way, and be irrecoverably lost in the wilderness. O spare them, spare them, my God ! listen to the prayers of thy humble servants.

31. Yet thou art all good and merciful ! I bow myself in utter humiliation before thee ; I confess my

unworthiness, I implore thy pardon for my weakness. Thou knowest all things—Lord, in all thy will be done. Amen.

CHAPTER IX.

THE FRUITS AND MARKS OF THE SPIRIT,
OR EVIDENCES THAT THE MEANS OF
GRACE HAVE PROVED SUCCESSFUL.

1. STILL thou replest, O man, that thy heart is still at ease : fain wouldst thou know whether thou art in the right way ; whether the means have proved successful, and the Spirit applies his comforts to thy soul ?

2. Laudable is thy desire, and it shall be gratified : who but would wish and long to know that he is travelling in the straight path to the eternal mansions of his Father's house ?

3. But mark, that very desire is

itself one sure token that all is well, and that thou art in the way to bliss : the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

4. Art not thou changed ? are not thy hopes and fears, thy desires and pursuits, thy inclinations and temper, thy expectations and joys, thy good and evil, altered and reversed ? art not thou, in the whole disposition of thy mind, converted from thy former self ?

5. But a little while, and thou never hadst one serious earnest reflection on these great things which now take up thy whole heart :

6. But a little while, and the pleasures of the world and the flesh utterly possessed thee, and in full self-confidence thou sailedst along, thoughtless and unadvised of any danger.

7. Enough hadst thou in thyself, because thy eyes were never turned inward to see the absolute nakedness and poverty of thy nature.

8. But now nothing upon this frail earth can satisfy the longing desires of thy immortal soul.

9. The pleasures of the world and the delights of sense become matter of mortification to thee ; thou canst not away with the loose melody of the viol, and the mad riot of the sons of luxury and lasciviousness.

10. Nor can thyself, and all thy once admired wisdom and sufficiency, all thy acquirements, how high or how valued soever, give to thy thirsty heart that water of refreshment and comfort, which alone can allay the heat of the natural man.

11. No longer dost thou see and boast of thy integrity and uprightness, no longer doest thou seek to justify thyself before God—proudly standing upon thy dignity, thy excellence and merits ! fallen son of fallen Adam !

12. But far, far different are thy new apprehensions : thou abhorrest thyself, and repentest in dust and ashes : thou seest and considerest thyself as a worm ; thy saving Lord, as the God of all glory, the fountain of all merit and perfection !

13. Lay thy hand to thy heart ; humbly penitent ask thy conscience if it doth not thus bear witness to the truth ? Yet stop not here ; seek and thou shalt find—go on, and speedily shalt thou attain that peace which shall

seal thy faith, and give thee a testimony true and unfailing.

14. Thou knowest and art well convinced of thy fallen, miserable estate ; and so believing, receivest and dost confess Jesus the only Redeemer and Saviour, the Lamb of God that taketh away the sins of the whole world.

15. Other foundation can no man lay. Settle well in thy heart this important truth ; seek for the grace and Spirit of the Most High ; so shall his power overshadow thee, and the Son of God be formed by faith in thy soul.

16. Thou repliest, that thou hast indeed well examined thy heart ; there, there firm faith and full filial confidence on this all-gracious and all-powerful Redeemer reigneth. O

increase it, God of love ! take the whole empire ; be thou alone my love, my king, and my father !

17. And dost thou indeed prize him above all things ? countest thou the world and all its pomps, as dross, and dung, and vanity, in comparison of the excellency of the knowledge of this Master, this dear and crucified Lord !

18. Art not thou enslaved and engrossed by the love of the world and worldly things ? consider and tremble, for it is the voice of truth. “ He that loveth the world, the love of God abideth not in him.”

19. Man cannot reconcile contraries : What agreement hath light with darkness ?

20. If then thy affections are not weaned from things below, and placed

on things above ; if thou art wedded to the world, thou canst not be the spouse of Christ ; if thou lovest the world, thou art not the Lord's, for God and Mammon are irreconcilable.

21. But it is not so : thou art ready to sell all that thou hast, and would rather part with life, and all things, than ever forsake and deny thy only Lord and Saviour.

22. Happy for thee, his friendship is constant, and can never fail thee : rely on him with all thy soul, rely on him, for he careth for thee ; so shall he never forsake thee, for he is thy husband, thy father, thy brother, thy God, and thy friend !

23. But husband, father, brother, friend, thy nearest and dearest relatives, will forsake, hate, and persecute

thee ; yea, they will prove treacherous, bitter, and sharp as gall and vinegar to thy soul.

24. Need then wilt thou have in that day of trial, need wilt thou have of all thy Master's love ; O then settle it well in thine heart ! love the Lord with all thy strength ; cleave to him, and esteem him thy only prop and support.

25. Having food and raiment, be therewith content : crowns and sceptres, yea, all the enticements of Satan, trample beneath thy feet ; conquer the world ; and thou, O Christian, art the son of the Most High !

26. More pleasure (I heard thee pronounce) dost thou find in meditating on the Word of the Lord one hour, than in all the days of thy former life, than in all the riches of thy father's house.

27. Thou art daily more and more enamoured of the sacred book ; daily dost thou pant after that fountain of living waters. I praise the Lord for thee ! daily dost thou advance in grace, and in the knowledge of the Giver of all good gifts : read and apply, through the Spirit, so shalt thou ascend as the young eagle.

28. Yet lackest thou one thing : having that, rest assured that thy spirit is of God, that thou art indeed born again, and created anew in the image of Christ.

29. Yet lackest thou one thing, and that the greatest of all : if possessed thereof, persevere gladly, go on thy way rejoicing, for it leadeth to the new Jerusalem.

30. Already thou hast prevented me

—with what a voice of heavenly melody do I hear thy enraptured soul sing forth—“ ’Tis love, Divine and all consummate love !”

31. Love is the end and aim of all things ; ’tis the fulfilling of the law ; ’tis the completion of every commandment.

32. O how amiable is the soul filled with Divine love! meek, long-suffering, kind, gentle, humble, patient !

33. Unwearied in works of kindness and benevolence ; tender and pitiful ; slow to condemn and glad to approve ; quick-sighted in the merits of others, blind to its own.

34. O what peace and tranquillity smooth the bosom where love, Divine love, maketh its abode, where God reigneth in the heart, possessing all

the will, guiding every thought and affection !

35. But alas ! how shall we come up to such a standard of perfection ? Faint not in thy mind ; the grace of thy God is sufficient for thee, and already I heard thee, with earnest fervour and uplifted hands, declare to the God of thy hope,—“ Lord, thou knoweth that I love thee.”

36. God is love. Form then thy soul on that divine example : abase thyself, annihilate each worldly principle ; so shalt thou find the love of God shed abroad in thy heart.

37. Imitate thy dear Redeemer's pattern ; live to God ; and as far as thou art able diffuse the blessings given to thee ; go about doing good.

38. Continue diligent in all the means of grace, fervent in prayer, regular in thy attendance on the supper of the Lord, daily meditating on his infallible Word. Warmed by the sense of his love, and thy unworthiness, persevere in the performance of every good work.

39. So shall thy soul find rest indeed ; so shall that peace, which passeth all understanding, fill thy heart ; so shalt thou be strengthened with might and by his Spirit in the inner man :

40. So shall Christ dwell in thy heart by faith ; that, being rooted and grounded in love, thou mayest be able to comprehend, with all saints, what is the length and breadth, and depth and height.

41. And to know the love of Christ which passeth knowledge, that thou mayest be filled with all the fulness of God.

CHAPTER X.

TEMPTATION AND PERSECUTION.

1. My Beloved is mine, and I am his—Behold, O ye daughters of Jerusalem, he is fair, yea, he is altogether lovely !

2. Thus ravished is thy heart : Happy art thou ; yea, O Son of God, thou art greatly to be blessed !

3. But be not discouraged, nor fear ; these thy holy ardours will sometimes decay : Satan will strongly assault thee—be aware therefore, and stand on thy guard.

4. Oh think not that thou art safe and secure, think not that thou art

landed on a shore where no dangers await thee ; need hast thou of the whole divine panoply : armed therewith, stand on thy watch, and keep thyself diligently.

5. In the gloomy hour of temptation, when thy soul is overclouded, when thy beloved hath for a while forsaken thee—then, O then, more earnestly seek after him : in that dark night wander through the streets, and inquire of all thou meetest, whether they can direct thee to him whom thy soul loveth.

6. Seek him till thou hast found him ; be not content to lie down without him, lest danger assault thee in that darkness : for except he keep thy house, all other watchmen wake but in vain.

7. Yet think not thyself utterly cast off; burn with an holy jealousy, and be thereby more inclined to search for him. Seek him amidst his suffering members; seek him in every ordinance: so shall comfort revisit thy soul, and the hour of his absence render his return more sweet and refreshing unto thee.

8. Expect not, O Christian! that inward trouble only shall try and perplex thee. Be assured, like gold thou must be proved in the fire; be assured, the devil and the world will not cease to assail and persecute thee.

9. But herein hast thou cause of great joy—this is the sure mark of thy discipleship and calling—it is enough for the servant that he be as his master.

10. If thou wert of the world, the world would love its own: rejoice thou art not of the world, therefore it hateth thee.

11. Whence come these bitter persecutions? Why we are called even unto blood?

12. O Blessed Master, how can thy followers sufficiently glory herein? "In the world ye shall have tribulation: If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you." And are we then thus honoured? be glad, O ye saints and servants of the Most High!

13. Nor shall thy assistance, Lord, fail us in that gloomy hour: thy holy martyrs already testify this comfortable truth; their tortures hast thou made easy, yea, they have rejoiced amidst scorpions, flames and death!

14. Livest thou, O Christian ! in better days ? art not thou called to follow thy Master in the way of blood ?

15. Yet rest assured, thou shalt suffer persecution from evil hands and evil tongues ; suffer with Christ thou must, whoever thou art, that wouldst be glorified with him !

16. And hear and rejoice—thou art therefore blessed—“ Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of God : Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my name’s sake : Rejoice, and be exceeding glad : for great is your reward in heaven !”

17. Thou wouldst not then wish to

be a Christian, and live without persecution.

18. But, be well aware of thyself; see that thou givest no just cause for it :

19. Since the persecution and reviling only is blessed, which comes upon thee because thou hast the mind which was in Christ, and because thou art his, for his name's sake.

20. The evil spoken of thee must be false—and the enmity arising only hence, because thou art not as other men, worldly, carnal, sensual.

21. Mark then, and be circumspect in thy goings ; be above measure careful in thy outward walking : for the enemy watching for an occasion of wrong ; yea, he lieth in wait to entrap and ensnare thee.

22. But if, upholden by the grace of

God, thou continuest upright when persecution assails thee, when evil tongues and hands lay fast hold of thee, rejoice, be exceeding glad, leap for joy—for great is thy reward in heaven: thou, like thy Master, through sufferings shall pass unto glory.

CHAPTER XI.

DEATH AND JUDGMENT.

1. O DEATH ! where is thy sting ?
Jesus ! great, glorious, and triumphant
Conqueror, we bless and adore thee
—thou hast given us the victory !

2. O when shall I be dissolved,
and live with thee for ever ? O when
shall I be set free, and restored to my
Father's house ?

3. O thrice happy and desired
change ! when, Lord Jesus ! when wilt
thou come, and give my soul her full
fruition of thy love ?

4. When shall I be delivered from
this heavy load of flesh ? When res-

cued from this prison of my body? When, Lord, escaped from all the poor and miserable enjoyments of this transitory world?

5. O when shall I entrust to the faithful earth this mortal seed, to be raised up a glorious and incorruptible body, like a beautiful plant in full verdure and glory, meet for the paradise of God?

6. In thy good time, wise Father; in thy own proper hour, sovereign Disposer of all events!

7. And yet, to shake off this flesh, to render unto earth this warm and moving frame—to sleep in death, to perish in loathsome corruption—strengthen us, Almighty Jesus; hold up in that gloomy hour! Who but

the suffering Lamb of God could have made the bitter portion sweet ?

8. Shout, O ye sons of God ! sing together, O ye morning stars, for joy ! the day of your redemption draweth nigh.

9. Yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry. Every eye shall see him ; behold he cometh in the clouds of glory !

10. A trumpet heard through the whole earth, awakening and arousing the dead, proclaimeth his awful approach—who shall be able to abide his presence ?

11. Clad in majesty and terror, seated on his living throne, with ten thousand, and ten thousand times ten thousand of his saints, he cometh to

judge the earth—Lord, Lord, prepare us for thy coming !

12. Behold ! the whole heavens melting away with fervent heat !—see the elements in confusion ! behold the earth flaming ! see the dead arising, and ascending up into his presence !—hear the dreadful trump !—hark ! the insufferable clangor !—view the innumerable throng approaching the awful tribunal !

13. Sinner, what is this to thee ? think, O think ! for thou must appear : sinner, repent and be advised.

14. But behold the Judge ! He openeth the book—he alone hath prevailed to open it. List ! for a silence ensueth still as night, and every being trembles with expectation.

15. O ye lovers of the Lord, can I

describe your felicity ? Words are too faint ! Heaven opens her doors, while the Judge, with a voice sweeter than ten thousand softest instruments of music, declareth, “ Come, ye blessed of my Father, receive the kingdom prepared for you from the beginning of the world ! ”

16. But who shall describe the horrors of the wicked :—“ Depart, ye cursed ! ”—O, my soul ! let us draw a veil over that dreadful scene, and humbly, in prayer, plead for the sons of infidelity, that even now, in this their day, they may see and know the things concerning their peace.

17. O Lord Jesus, Fountain of love and mercy, save them, O save them from the horrors of that day ! open their eyes that they may see, open

their ears that they may hear. Lord, be gracious unto thy people ; turn them, and so shall they be turned. Source of all mercy, Fountain of all love, give to all mankind the knowledge of thee, their only God and Saviour. O let thy kingdom come, and reign thou absolutely among us ; so shall thy will be done here upon earth, as it is done by thy servants in heaven ;—so shall we rejoice to meet thee in the clouds and be with our dear and blessed Lord for ever.—Hear us, O Father, we earnestly intreat thee, for this thy beloved Son's sake ; who with thee and the eternal Spirit, ever liveth, three persons, but one God, blessed over all, from generation to generation, Amen. Come quickly ; even so, come Lord Jesus. Amen !

LUTHER'S HYMN.

'Tis not too arduous an essay,
To tread resolved the gospel way ;
The sensual instinct to control,
And warm with purer fire the soul.
Nature may raise her fleshy strife,
Reluctant to the heavenly life ;
Loath in a Saviour's death to share,
Her daily cross compelled to bear :
But grace omnipotent at length
Shall arm the saint with saving strength ;
Through the sharp war with aids attend,
And his long conflict sweetly end.
Act but the infant's gentle part ;
Give up to love thy willing heart :
No fondest parent's melting breast
Yearns, like thy God's, to make thee blest.
Taught its dear Mother soon to know,
The tenderest babe his love can show :

Bid thy base servile fear retire ;
This task no labour will require.
The Sovereign Father, good and kind,
Wants but to have his child resigned ;
Wants but thy yielded heart (no more !)
With his large gifts of grace to store.
He to thy soul no anguish brings,
From thy own stubborn will it springs :
That foe but crucify (thy bane) !
Nought shalt thou know of frowns or pain.
Shake from thy soul, o'erwhelmed, deprest,
Th' encumbering load that galls her rest ;
That wastes her strength in bondage vain :—
With courage break th' enslaving chain.
Let prayer exert its conqu'ring pow'r ;
Cry in thy tempted trembling hour,
“ My God, my Father ! save thy son ! ”—
'Tis heard—and all thy fears are done.
Yet (if more earnest plaints to raise)
Thy God awhile his aid delays,
Though you don't now his kind hand feel,
Thy grief let lenient patience heal.
Or if corruption's strength prevail,
And oft thy pilgrim footsteps fail ;

Pray for his grace with louder cries,
So shalt thou cleansed and stronger rise.
If haply still thy mental shade,
Dark as the midnight gloom be made,
On the sure faithful arm divine
Firm let thy fast'ning trust recline.
The gentlest sire, the best of friends,
To thee, nor loss nor harm intends :
Though tost on a tempestuous main,
No wreck thy vessel shall sustain.
Should there remain of rescuing grace
No glimpse, no footstep left to trace ;
Hear thy Lord's voice :—'tis Jesus' will,
" Believe (thou poor dark pilgrim) still."
Then thy sad night of terrors past,
(Though the dread season long may last)
Sweet light shall, from the tranquil skies,
Like a fair dawn before thee rise.
Then shall thy faith's bright grounds appear,
Thy eyes shall view salvation clear.
Be hence encouraged more, when tried,
On the best Father to confide.
Ah ! from thy mind extirpate quite
The sickly films that cloud her sight :

See ! of how rich a lot, how blest,
The true believer stands possest !
Come, backward soul ! to God resign ;
Peace, his best blessing, shall be thine :
Boldly recumbent on his care,
Cast thy felt burdens ONLY THERE.

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